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OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 178

On the status of the names *Serphus* Schrank,
1780, and *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (Class
Insecta, Order Hymenoptera)

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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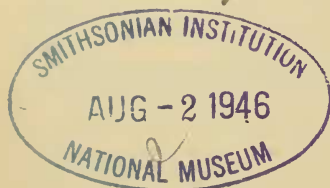
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OPINION 178.

ON THE STATUS OF THE NAMES *SERPBUS* SCHRANK, 1780, AND *PROCTOTRUPES* LATREILLE, 1796 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HYMENOPTERA).

SUMMARY.—Under suspension of the rules (i) the name *Serphus* Schrank, 1780, is suppressed for all purposes other than Article 34 of the International Code; (ii) all type designations for *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796, made prior to the date of this *Opinion*, are set aside; and (iii) *Proctotrupes brevipennis* Latreille, [1802–1803],¹ is hereby designated as the type of *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera). The name *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796, with the type indicated above, is hereby added to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 616.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

As the result of consultations initiated by Professor James Chester Bradley with the leading systematic workers in the Order Hymenoptera (Class Insecta) in all countries, the following petition signed by Professor Chester Bradley and 59 other hymenopterists was submitted to the International Commission:—

THE CASE OF *PROCTOTRUPES* VERSUS *SERPBUS*

Proctotrupes was proposed by Latreille, 1796, without species. Under *Opinion* 46 its type is *Proctotrupes brevipennis* Latreille, 1802,¹ said to be a synonym of *Ichneumon divagator* Olivier, and a *Proctotrupes* in the sense of authors. But *Proctotrupes* Latr., 1796, is a synonym of *Serphus* Schrank, 1780, the type of which is the congeneric *Serphus brachypterus* Schrank.

Since *Proctotrupes* has been in universal use as type of a well known family, erected by Latreille in 1802, and is the type of a superfamily PROCTOTRUPOIDEA, to change these generic, family and superfamily names as Kieffer has done to *Serphus*, SERPHIDAE, and SERPHOIDEA, would cause confusion.

The undersigned therefore petition the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) to suspend the rules in the cases of the generic names *Serphus* Schrank and *Proctotrupes* Latreille;
- (2) to permanently reject *Serphus* Schrank, 1780, type *Serphus brachypterus* Schrank;
- (3) to validate *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796, type *P. brevipennis* Latr.;
- (4) to place on the *Official List of Generic Names*, the name *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796, type *Proctotrupes brevipennis* Latreille, as the correct name for the genus of parasitic wasps commonly passing under that name.

¹ The reference is Latreille, [1802–1803], (in Sonnini's Buffon), *Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 309. For the date here assigned to this volume of the *Hist. nat.*, see Griffin, 1938, *J. Soc. Bibl. nat. Hist.* 1 : 157.

2. The following is the list of signatures attached to the above petition at the time of its submission to the International Commission :—

C. T. Brues	R. Benoist *	H. Haupt
Jos. Bequaert	J. D. Alfken *	H. Brauns ‡
G. Grandi	A. Krausse	L. Berland
A. B. Gahan *	M. Wolff	A. A. Oglobin
T. H. Frison *	J. G. Betrem	O. W. Richards
A. R. Park *	R. Fouts	P. P. Babiş
H. H. Ross *	G. Arnold	V. S. L. Pate
J. M. Dusmet	A. Handlirsch	J. C. Bradley
W. M. Wheeler *	I. Micha	G. Enderlein
G. T. Lyle	H. Hacker	T. Uchida †
R. A. Cushman *	A. C. Kinsey *	O. Vogt †
E. A. Elliott	H. de W. Marriott	H. Habermehl †
A. Crevecoeur	F. Maidl	E. Kruger †
W. M. Mann	P. Roth	W. Hellen †
R. Friesse	E. Enslin	F. X. Williams †
H. von Thering †	A. von Schulthess	O. Schmiedeknecht †
A. C. W. Wagner	R. B. Benson *	N. N. Kuznezov-
H. Hedicke	H. F. Schwarz	Ugamtsky †
H. Bischoff	W. V. Balduf *	F. E. Lutz
L. Masi	D. S. Wilkinson *	L. H. Weld*

* In accord with results sought by the petition without having studied the points involved in the particular case.

† Evidently intended to subscribe to this petition, but sheet bearing his signature was not included in his reply.

‡ Deceased.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE.

3. This case was circulated to the members of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in January 1935, when it was arranged that it and the other Hymenoptera cases submitted at the same time should be dealt with at the meeting of the Commission due to be held at Lisbon in September of that year, by which time the recommendations of the International Committee on Entomological Nomenclature would be available.

4. This case was considered by the International Committee on Entomological Nomenclature at its meeting held at Madrid in the second week of September 1935 during the Sixth International Congress of Entomology. After careful consideration, the International Committee formed the conclusion that it was desirable that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should use their plenary powers in order to preserve the long-established name *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796, with the family and superfamily names derived therefrom, since, having regard to the literature as a whole, confusion rather than uniformity was likely to result from the supersession of these names

by the names *Serphus* Schrank, SERPHIDAE, and SERPHOIDEA. The International Committee agreed therefore to recommend to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature that the name *Serphus* Schrank, 1780, should be suppressed under the Commission's plenary powers and that *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (type: *Proctotrupes brevipennis* Latreille, [1802-1803]), should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

5. The above and other recommendations adopted by the International Committee on Entomological Nomenclature at their meeting held at Madrid were confirmed by the Sixth International Congress of Entomology at the Concilium Plenum held at Madrid on 12th September 1935.

III.—THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE.

6. When the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature met at Lisbon immediately after the close of the Sixth International Congress of Entomology in September 1935, they found themselves confronted with a large number of cases involving proposals for the suspension of the rules, in respect of some of which advertisements had not been published or, if published, had not been published for the prescribed period, owing to the illness of Dr. C. W. Stiles, Secretary to the Commission, or for other causes. In these circumstances, the Commission decided at their meeting held on the morning of Monday, 16th September 1935 (Lisbon Session, 2nd Meeting, Conclusion 9), that immediate consideration should be given to all cases submitted to the Commission that, in their judgment, had reached the stage at which a decision could properly be taken; that the By-Laws of the Commission should be suspended during the Lisbon Session to such extent as might be necessary to give effect to this decision; and that, in so far as this procedure involved taking decisions "under suspension of the rules" in cases where the prescribed advertisement procedure had not been complied with, the cases in question should be duly advertised as soon as might be practicable after the conclusion of the Lisbon Congress and that no *Opinion* should be rendered and published thereon until after the expiry of a period of one year from the date on which the said advertisement was despatched to the prescribed journals for publication. The case of the names *Serphus* Schrank, 1780, and *Proctotrupes*

Latreille, 1796, was one of the cases in question and was accordingly dealt with by the Commission under the above procedure.

7. This case was considered by the International Commission at their meeting held on the afternoon of Monday, 16th September 1935 (Lisbon Session, 3rd Meeting, Conclusion 2), when the Commission agreed ² :—

(b) under " suspension of the rules " permanently to reject the following generic names :—

(16) *Serphus* Schrank, 1780, *Schrift. Berlin. Ges. nat. Freunde* 1 : 307

(c) under " suspension of the rules " to set aside all type designations for the undermentioned genera and to declare their types to be the species indicated below :—

Name of genus

Type of genus

(32) *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796, *Proctotrupes brevipennis* Latreille, *Précis Caract. Ins.* : 108 [1802-1803], (in Sonnini's Buffon), *Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 309

(d) under " suspension of the rules " to place on the *Official List of Generic Names* the sixteen generic names enumerated in (c) above (names (19) to (34)), each with the type species there indicated;

(e) to render *Opinions* in the sense of (a) to (d) above.

8. The foregoing decision was embodied in paragraph 27 of the report which at their meeting held on the morning of Wednesday, 18th September 1935, the Commission unanimously agreed (Lisbon Session, 5th Meeting, Conclusion 6) to submit to the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology.

9. At the same meeting the Commission agreed (Lisbon Session, 5th Meeting, Conclusion 10 ³) that Commissioner Karl Jordan (*President of the Commission*) and the new Secretary to the Commission, when elected, should be authorised to make such arrangements and to take such other action, as might appear to them to be necessary or expedient :—

(i) to establish the Secretariat of the Commission at its new headquarters;

(ii) to secure the due publication of the *Opinions* agreed upon from time to time by the Commission;

(iii) to give effect to the decisions reached by the Commission at their Lisbon Session;

(iv) to obtain the finance required for the due functioning of the Commission; and generally

(v) to secure the effective continuance of the work of the Commission.

² Only those portions of Conclusion 2 which relate to the present case are here quoted. For the full text of Conclusion 2, see 1943, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 27-30.

³ See 1943, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 48.

10. The report adopted by the Commission on the morning of Wednesday, 18th September 1935, was unanimously approved by the Section on Nomenclature at its joint meeting with the International Commission held on the afternoon of the same day. It was thereupon submitted to the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology, by which it was unanimously approved and adopted at the Concilium Plenum held on the afternoon of Saturday, 21st September 1935, the last day of the Congress.

11. In accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at Lisbon in regard to their procedure at that Session (paragraph 6 above), this case was duly advertised in 1936 in two or more of the journals specified in the Resolution⁴ adopted by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology at its meeting held at Monaco in March 1913, by which the said International Congress conferred upon the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature plenary power to suspend the rules as applied to any given case where, in the judgment of the Commission, the strict application of the rules would clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity. In the period that has elapsed since the advertisement in the said journals of the proposed suspension of the rules in the case of the names dealt with in the present *Opinion*, one communication only has been addressed to the Commission raising objection to the suspension of the rules in this case. This communication, which was dated 1st March 1937, and bore the signature of Dr. S. A. Rohwer, was addressed to the Commission in the name of the Committee on Nomenclature of the Entomological Society of Washington. The passage in that document relating to the present case reads as follows :—

THE CASE OF *PROCTOTRUPES* LATREILLE, 1796

Proctotrupes Latr., 1796, described without originally included species, is a straight synonym of *Serphus* Schrank, 1780, although until the beginning of this century it, rather than *Serphus*, was generally employed for this group. However, during the past twenty-five years vastly more taxonomic literature has used *Serphus*, SERPHIDAE and SERPHOIDEA than *Proctotrupes*, PROCTOTRUPIDAE and PROCTOTRUPOIDEA. J. J. Kieffer, who has published an enormous amount of work on the group, much more than any other investigator, has used *Serphus*, and supergeneric names based on that generic name, in such standard monographs as those published in André's "Species des Hyménoptères d'Europe et Algérie, vol. 10 (1907); in Wytzman's *Genera Insectorum*, fasc. 95 (1909), and in *Das Tierreich* (1914). Brues,⁵

⁴ See Declaration 5 (1943, *Opinions and Declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 1 : 31-40).

⁵ It will be seen from paragraph 2 of the present *Opinion* that this author's name is one of those included in the list of signatories of the petition submitted to the International Commission in favour of the suspension of the rules in this case.

Crawford, Fouts,⁵ Gahan⁵ and others have followed Kieffer in this usage, and there now exists a large body of literature in which *Serphus* and the supergeneric names based on it have been employed. It seems therefore wholly unnecessary, and decidedly inadvisable, to revert to *Proctotrupes* in this case.

12. Immediately upon its receipt by the Commission copies of the document from which the passage quoted above is an extract were communicated (April 1937) to each member of the Commission, but since that date no member of the Commission has expressed himself as being in agreement with the representations contained therein.

13. The representations set out in paragraph 11 above were considered at the Plenary Conference between the President of the Commission and the Secretary to the Commission convened in London on 19th June 1939 under the authority of the Resolution adopted by the Commission at their meeting held at Lisbon on 18th September 1935 (for the text of which see paragraph 9 above). The Plenary Conference (Plenary Conference, 1st Meeting, Conclusion 9)⁶ :—

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 (b) examined the communications that had been received during the prescribed period in regard to the undermentioned names :—

 (vii) *Proctotrupes* Latreille, 1796 from the Committee on Nomenclature of the Entomological Society of Washington

 (c) took note that, although copies of the communications referred to in (b) above had been transmitted to each member of the Commission immediately upon their receipt, no member of the Commission had expressed himself as being in agreement with the representations contained therein ;
 (d) agreed that the communications referred to in (b) above brought forward no data and adduced no considerations that had not been before the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature when at Lisbon in 1935 they approved the recommendations in favour of the suspension of the rules in these cases submitted to them by the International Committee on Entomological Nomenclature in resolutions adopted during the meeting of the Sixth International Congress of Entomology at Madrid in the same year ;
 (e) agreed that, in view of (c) and (d) above, the proper course for the present Conference in the discharge of the duties entrusted to it by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (Lisbon Session, 5th Meeting, Conclusion 10) was to give effect to the decisions in this matter reached by the International Commission at their Lisbon Session (3rd Meeting, Conclusion 2) and therefore that *Opinions* should be issued as soon as possible in the sense indicated in paragraph 27 of the report submitted by them to the Twelfth

⁶ Only those portions of Conclusion 9 which relate to the present case are here quoted. For the full text of Conclusion 9, see 1943, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 76-77.

International Congress of Zoology and approved and adopted by that Congress at the Concilium Plenum held at Lisbon on 21st September 1935.

14. The present *Opinion* was concurred in by the twelve (12) Commissioners and Alternates present at the Lisbon Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Commissioners :—Calman; Hemming; Jordan; Pellegrin; Peters; and Stejneger.

Alternates :—do Amaral *vice* Cabrera; Ohshima *vice* Esaki; Bradley *vice* Stone; Beier *vice* Handlirsch; Arndt *vice* Richter; and Mortensen *vice* Apstein.

15. The present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate present at the Lisbon Session. Nor since that Session has any Commissioner who was neither present on that occasion nor represented thereat by an Alternate indicated disagreement with the conclusions then reached by the Commission in this matter.

16. The following five (5) Commissioners who were not present at Lisbon nor represented thereat by Alternates did not vote on the present *Opinion* :—

Bolivar y Pieltain; Chapman; Fantham; Silvestri; and Stiles.

17. At the time when the vote was taken on the present *Opinion*, there was one (1) vacancy in the Commission consequent upon the death of Commissioner Horváth.

IV.—AUTHORITY FOR THE ISSUE OF THE PRESENT *OPINION*.

WHEREAS the Ninth International Congress of Zoology at its meeting held at Monaco in March 1913 adopted a Resolution conferring upon the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, acting for the International Congress of Zoology, plenary power to suspend the rules as applied to any given case where, in the judgment of the Commission, the strict application of the rules would clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity, provided that not less than one year's notice of the possible suspension of the rules as applied to the said case should be given in two or more of five journals specified in the said Resolution, and provided that the vote in the Commission was unanimously in favour of the said suspension of the rules; and

WHEREAS the suspension of the rules is required to give valid force to the provisions of the present *Opinion* as set out in the summary thereof; and

WHEREAS not less than one year's notice of the possible suspension of the rules as applied to the present case has been given to two or more of the journals specified in the Resolution adopted by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology at its meeting held at Monaco in March 1913; and

WHEREAS the vote in the Commission at their Lisbon Session was unanimously in favour of the issue of an *Opinion* in the terms of the present *Opinion*;

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, FRANCIS HEMMING, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, acting in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon me in that behalf by reason of holding the said Office of Secretary to the International Commission, hereby announce the said *Opinion* on behalf of the International Commission, acting for the International Congress of Zoology, and direct that it be rendered and printed as *Opinion* Number One Hundred and Seventy Eight (*Opinion* 178) of the said Commission.

In faith whereof I, the undersigned FRANCIS HEMMING, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, have signed the present *Opinion*.

DONE in London, this eleventh day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Forty Three, in a single copy, which shall remain deposited in the archives of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature.*

FRANCIS HEMMING

THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

(obtainable at the Publications Office of the Commission at 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.)

Opinions and Declarations Rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

The above work is being published in three volumes concurrently, namely :—

Volume 1. This volume will contain *Declarations 1-9* (which have never previously been published) and *Opinions 1-133* (the original issue of which is now out of print). In order that the volume, when bound, may be of a convenient size for handling, it has been decided to divide volume 1 into a series of Sections, which will be continuously paged but will each be supplied with a title page and index. It is at present contemplated that the first of these Sections (Section A) will comprise *Declarations 1-9* and *Opinions 1-29*, but no final decision can be taken until it is possible to estimate more closely than at present the number of pages required for a volume so composed. An announcement on this subject will be made as soon as possible.

Parts 1-21 (comprising *Declarations 1-9* and *Opinions 1-12*) have now been published. Further Parts are in the press and will be published as soon as possible.

Volume 2. This volume will contain *Declarations 10-12* and *Opinions 134-181* and will thus be a complete record of all the decisions taken by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at their meeting held at Lisbon in 1935. This volume will be published in two Sections, which will be continuously paged but will each be supplied with a title page and index.

Section A, comprising *Declarations 10-12* and *Opinions 134-160* (published in Parts 1-30 and 30 A), is now complete, price £4 4s. 0d. Individual Parts of this Section are also obtainable separately at the prices at which they were originally published.

Section B will comprise *Opinions 161-181* (to be published in Parts 31-52). Parts 31-50 (containing *Opinions 161-180*) have now been published and it is hoped that the remaining Parts will be issued at an early date.

Volume 3. This volume, which commenced with *Opinion 182*, will contain the first instalment of the *Opinions* adopted by the International Commission since their Lisbon meeting. Parts 1-11 (containing *Opinions 182-192*) have now been published. Further Parts will be published as soon as possible.

Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature.

This journal was established by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in 1943 as their Official Organ in order to provide a medium for the publication of:—

- (a) proposals on zoological nomenclature submitted to the International Commission for deliberation and decision;
- (b) comments received from, and correspondence by the Secretary with, zoologists on proposals published in the *Bulletin* under (a) above; and
- (c) papers on nomenclatorial implications of developments in taxonomic theory and practice.

Parts 1-7 of volume 1 have now been published. Further Parts are in the press and will be published as soon as possible.